

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## THE NONDISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ACT OF 1999

### HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Nondiscrimination in Employee Benefits Act of 1999. This legislation will require that employers offering benefits to associates of their employees who are not spouses or dependents of those employees not discriminate on the basis of the nature of the relationship between the employee and the designated associates.

For many years health and other benefits provided by employers were available only to the employee and his or her spouse and children. Today, more and more employers are permitting unmarried employees to designate someone else for similar coverage, but only if the employee and the other person declare that they are in a homosexual relationship. This is done in the name of nondiscrimination and homosexual rights. However, in too many cases these policies themselves discriminate, even against some family members. In one case involving constituents of mine, the employee has her mother living with her. Her employer-provided health insurance will not allow coverage of her mother; however if they were unrelated and declared that the relationship was romantic in nature, her company's policy would allow coverage. This is clearly unfair. Why should we, in this manner, set homosexual relationships above all other relationships between unmarried individuals? Mr. Speaker, my bill simply requires that if a company allows an employee to choose someone to receive such benefits, the choice must be open to all equally. I ask that a copy of the bill be included in the RECORD.

H.R. —

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the "Nondiscrimination in Employee Benefits Act of 1999".

#### SEC. 2 NONDISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS.

Section 510 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended by inserting before the last sentence the following: "In a case in which an employer elects to offer benefits to associates of its employees who are not spouses or dependents of the employees, the employer shall offer such benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to the nature of the relationship between the employee and the designated associate."

## BOLTZ JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the students, teachers, and parents of Boltz Junior High School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the faculty of Boltz, particularly Jennifer Gammon, Tony Garcia, Kirstan Morris, and Ali Shore, as well as all the students, parents, and individuals who contributed to their special benefit auction. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to families in Colorado for 3 years running. That the school raised \$1,200 for the benefit of two local families is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let the children's example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

## IN HONOR OF CHRISTINA ROZSAKIS

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christina Rozakis a National Young Leaders Conference participant and a student at Lakewood High School in Lakewood, OH.

Christina has been selected to attend the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC, this week. She is among 350 outstanding national scholars from across the country who are participating in a unique leadership development program. Since the theme of the conference is The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today, Christina is taking advantage of the opportunity to interact with key leaders and news makers from the three branches of government, the media and the diplomatic corps.

This week, she is also participating in a number of leadership skill-building activities such as a Model Congress and roll-playing the President, Members of the Cabinet and Members of Congress. The conference activities get young people on the right track to achieving their full leadership potential. I am certain that Christina will not only gain knowledge and experience here, but that she will also leave with a sense of accomplishment and an increased ability to face the challenges of the future.

My fellow colleagues please join me in congratulating Christina for all her accomplishments.

## A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM M. KELSAY

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to convey the appreciation of Santa Cruz County for the long and distinguished service rendered by William M. Kelsay. Bill is retiring from the Santa Cruz Supreme Court after 21 years on the bench.

Bill was born in Patterson, California, and graduated from Patterson High School in 1959. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from University of California, Davis and went on to study law at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco. He was admitted to the California Bar in 1969, and worked in the Office of the District Attorney of Santa Cruz County until his appointment as Judge in the Municipal Court in 1977. Bill's appointment to the Superior Court came in 1985.

The legal community has relied on Bill's acumen and leadership for many years, and owes the current environment of collegiality and coordination to Bill's work to consolidate Santa Cruz municipal and superior courts. Bill's colleague, Judge Robert B. Younts, Jr. said of Bill "He is an astute student of human nature. He is respected by all. He is an absolute gentleman."

Bill has been generous of his time away from the bench in the non-profit sector, serving a term as Chair of the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center, and as a member of Santa Cruz County Fish and Game Commission. He has expressed an interest in participation on community boards and commissions in the future. Bill is also an astute student of piscine nature, and certainly will reserve time for studying steelhead very closely in their natural habitat.

Judge Kelsay's contributions form a continuing legacy to the legal community of Santa Cruz County. With his great range of interests, I am sure his retirement years will be filled and fulfilling. He has our best wishes for health and happiness into the future.

## RECOGNITION OF ARTIST JOHN HOUSER INDUCTED INTO THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS, EL PASO ARTISTS' HALL OF FAME

### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 1999*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Mr. John Houser as a recent inductee to the El Paso Artists' Hall of Fame. Mr. Houser was honored this past November in El Paso, Texas. John is an extremely talented artist and has many notable credits.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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